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Letter dated 13 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Every month, the Security Council is presented with a report by the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry. I suppose that it is purely coincidental that the Special Coordinator can easily tap into sources and data about Israeli infractions, but when it comes to Palestinian crimes, the well runs dry.

One would think that a report on the Middle East would focus on the 100,000 people killed in Syria and the tens of millions of people who have taken to the streets from Benghazi to Beirut demanding freedom. Yet month after month, these reports almost exclusively address Israel and the Palestinians and even then, largely ignore Israel's pressing security concerns.

The details of every arrest and house search are given to the Council, but it is never reported that these activities are done to prevent terrorism and save Israeli lives. As an example, the Special Coordinator has never revealed that Palestinian terror attacks grew by 50 per cent between 2011 and 2012, and that 34 attempted abductions were prevented by Israeli security forces so far in 2013. The Special Coordinator has also never reported that in 2012, Israeli men, women and children were the targets of 2,736 shootings, rockets, improvised explosive devices and other terror attacks.

Instead, the Security Council receives a lengthy report that paints a distorted picture of the situation. Most recently, on 23 July 2013, the Special Coordinator reported that:

- "Jordanian detainee Abdullah Barghouti was transferred from prison to an Israeli hospital in critical condition after 76 days of continuous hunger strike." In truth, on the day the report was given, Barghouti had been on hunger strike for 46 days and had been hospitalized in June and listed in stable condition. It is also striking that the Special Coordinator failed to note that Barghouti was convicted for building the bombs used in a string of horrific suicide attacks that killed 67 Israelis and wounded more than 500. The report also neglected to mention that his hunger strike is aimed at the Jordanian Government and not Israel.
- "Israeli forces conducted six limited incursions into Gaza." It is curious that, in his report, the Special Coordinator did not note that the purpose of the IDF activities is to maintain and repair the border fence and neutralize land mines.

Please recycle

- "... the Israeli Navy forced Palestinian fishing boats ashore by shooting in their vicinity." The Special Coordinator did not report that during the month of July, 1,167 Palestinian fishing boats crossed into Israel. Every fisherman who crosses into Israeli territory is notified via a public address system and asked to turn back. Firing a warning shot is a last resort that is only employed when fishermen refuse to leave Israel's territorial waters.
- "Palestinian security forces continued working to maintain law and order in the West Bank." In truth, despite having detained over 1,000 Hamas operatives in 2012, not a single one was prosecuted on terrorism charges. This is a fact that has somehow eluded the authors of the monthly Security Council reports. It would seem worth noting that no matter the severity of the crime committed, Palestinians rarely receive prison terms and when they do, they are charged with minor offences that carry a light sentence.

Finally, during the reporting period, there were a number of attacks aimed at Israelis that were not reported to the Council, namely:

- 156 Palestinian stone-throwing incidents
- 18 Molotov cocktails were thrown at IDF forces
- 15 improvised grenades were thrown at IDF forces
- IDF forces prevented a Palestinian woman with knives from carrying out an attack in Hebron (1 July 2013)
- A pipe bomb was thrown at IDF forces near Nablus (10 July 2013)
- A Palestinian attempted to run over an IDF officer (21 July 2013)

As you are aware, the situation in the Middle East is complicated and tenuous. The reports the Council receives every month tell only half the story and do not honestly portray the situation in the region. It is high time for the Security Council to hear reports that actually reflect the security concerns of the State of Israel.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter to the members of the Security Council and have it issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Ron **Prosor**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative